



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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Fifth District

August 25, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
From: 
David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

**POLICY ISSUES REGARDING REPORT ON SHERIFF'S RECOMMENDATIONS
PERTAINING TO COMPTON STATION, AND COUNTY/CONTRACTOR JOINT
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS**

On June 27, 2006, on a motion by Supervisor Burke and amended by Supervisor Molina, your Board directed this Office to report back on the following:

- Policy issues raised during discussion of the Sheriff Department's Capital Project No. 86901 to renovate the existing Compton Station, and the joint renovation of Sheriff's stations where cities are involved;
- Ownership issues that may arise during the joint development of products between private companies and County departments where there is no agreement in place; and
- Who is responsible for approving the Advanced Surveillance and Protection Plan (ASAP) System within the City of Compton: the City, Sheriff, or the Board of Supervisors?

We have worked with the Sheriff, County Counsel, and Internal Services Department in developing this response to your Board's instruction, and they concur with this memorandum.

JOINT RENOVATION OF SHERIFF STATIONS

In order to clarify and address issues associated with the Compton Sheriff Station renovation and joint city-County renovation of Sheriff stations in general, we have separated these matters for the purposes of this report. Our findings are summarized below.

Compton Sheriff Station Renovation

The Sheriff's Department has provided law enforcement services in the City of Compton since September 2000; Compton is one of the 40 cities throughout the County that contract for such services. Personnel are housed in the former Compton Police Department facility, now the Compton Sheriff Station, which serves both the City and unincorporated area of East Compton.

The Agreement for Transfer of Personnel, Equipment, and Facilities between the City of Compton and the County of Los Angeles (Compton Agreement), approved by your Board on September 12, 2000, authorizes the Sheriff's Department to utilize the Compton Police Station; at that time, the City of Compton provided \$959,000 to assist in equipping the Station for the Sheriff's occupancy. The Compton Agreement requires the County to perform all routine maintenance and minor repairs to the interior, including "minor remodeling" and requires the City to pay for all other maintenance and repairs, including the replacement of any improvement or fixtures. Additionally, Section 3.C.6 of the Compton Agreement states "The Sheriff may authorize improvements to the Compton Police Station for the benefit of the County or related to the provision of law enforcement services in territory outside of the City, at no cost to the City."

The Compton Sheriff's Station refurbishment contemplated under Capital Project No. 86901 is consistent with the terms of the Compton Agreement; to the extent the improvements are for the benefit of the County or related to providing law enforcement services in territory outside the City of Compton, the cost is to be borne by the County. The modifications include reconfiguring existing and underutilized space to provide improved working conditions for Sheriff personnel, as well as providing user-friendly space for community interface in the public lobby. The existing dispatch area will be modified to provide an ergonomically correct environment for employees consistent with County standards. The former jail will be converted to office space to accommodate clerical and staff support needs. An appropriate area will also be provided for storage of individual patrol bags currently located in the basement of the facility, which will improve safety conditions for deputies located at the Compton Sheriff Station.

These improvements, estimated to cost \$1,450,000, are consistent with the County's Strategic Plan of Service Excellence, Workforce Excellence and Organizational Effectiveness by: 1) providing the public with easy access to quality information and services in the Compton Sheriff Station; 2) enhancing the quality, productivity, and safety for Sheriff personnel housed at the Compton Sheriff Station, as the result of an improved working environment; and 3) ultimately increasing the safety and security of residents within the City of Compton and East Compton unincorporated area.

Sheriff Stations in Other Contract Cities

Sheriff stations located within the boundaries of contract cities are County assets, and serve both the residents of the contract city and unincorporated area. In rare instances, a merger occurs, as was the case with the City of Compton, and the City retains ownership of the property; however, as previously stated, the Compton Agreement sets forth the terms, conditions and responsibilities for maintenance and renovation of that facility.

Generally speaking, agreements for law enforcement services with contract cities are silent on housing requirements for Sheriff personnel and cost-sharing for maintenance and construction activities. However, on a case-by-case basis, separate agreements with cities have been approved by your Board for financial assistance towards construction of new and expanded Sheriff stations. In the past, this included the cities of Lancaster and Cerritos. The most recent examples include Sheriff stations in the cities of San Dimas, Palmdale, and Lakewood, and preliminary discussions are underway with the cities of Industry and Santa Clarita.

All projects are analyzed on the basis of need and available financing, and all are submitted to your Board for approval. For the most part however, costs associated with construction or renovation of Sheriff stations have been, and are, borne by the County. These Sheriff stations also provide direct service to the unincorporated area, as well as overall regional services to both the contract city served and the surrounding unincorporated area.

JOINT PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT WHERE AN AGREEMENT IS NOT IN PLACE

The second issue raised at the Board meeting of June 27, 2006, referenced ownership issues that may arise during the joint development of products between private companies and County departments where an agreement is not in place. However, the Sheriff's Department has not engaged in joint development of products with private companies. Because the Sheriff's Department does not engage in joint development agreements, ownership issues that otherwise might arise have not occurred. Those

issues would include joint product liability, intellectual property liability, and enforcement of non-disclosure agreements, as well as issues related to marketing, sales and profit sharing.

On a number of occasions, the Sheriff's Department has agreed to test products that have been developed by private companies, and has provided feedback to the companies on the performance or utility of the products in the field. Consistent with ISD's Purchasing Policy and the Auditor-Controller's Fiscal Manual relative to donations, these agreements were authorized either through a No Cost Purchase Order (PO) issued by the Purchasing Agent, or through agreements approved by your Board, generally involving a donation of the equipment.

A sampling of these instances is as follows:

- On September 8, 2005, a No Cost PO was issued for a 30 day free access to "Accurint for Law Enforcement" to assess its usefulness as an analytical and investigative tool.
- On October 6, 2005, a No Cost PO was issued for Itronix GoBook III PC for a 60 day evaluation period.
- On October 11, 2005, your Board authorized the Sheriff to execute an agreement with TigerLight and Mark Correria, Ph.D., to conduct a field evaluation of the TigerLight Flashlight/pepper spray system to determine the efficacy and safety of this device. Your Board also authorized the Sheriff to accept 500 flashlights from TigerLight Inc., with an approximate value of \$140 each, to be distributed directly to participating deputies in return for field reports under actual working conditions.
- On January 10, 2006, your Board approved a similar agreement with Shield Defense Corporation to conduct a field evaluation of the Cobra Stunlight flashlights and authorized the Sheriff to accept 500 flashlights with an approximate value of \$200 each.
- On August 2, 2006, a No Cost requisition was prepared for an Audio Video Recording system, which will be installed in a Transportation Bureau bus for evaluation period of 90 days. A No Cost PO will follow.

These agreements are generally to the benefit of the County because they permit the County to provide recommendations which, if incorporated into the product, may tailor it

to fit law enforcement needs with only a nominal burden on the resources of the Sheriff's Department.

The testing and evaluation of donated equipment commonly occurs during the normal course and scope of a Department member's duties, and is often a replacement or an addition to the equipment already issued by the Department. Therefore, there is usually no cost to the County to evaluate the donated equipment. The safety of Department personnel and the public, and the mitigation of County liability often occurs as a result of accepting product donations that the Department may not have previously considered due to market availability and associated costs.

The Board specifically questioned the Sheriff's Department's testing of the drones. The Department has only observed the capabilities of the drones and is not participating in the development of the product. If the Sheriff's Department determines that a field evaluation of the drones is warranted the Department will follow ISD's Purchasing Policy and enter into a No Cost PO.

ADVANCED SURVEILLANCE AND PROTECTION PLAN (ASAP) SYSTEM

The final question that arose at the Board meeting of June 27, 2006 surrounded the ASAP System and the jurisdictional approval required for installation/implementation within the City of Compton - the City, the Sheriff, or your Board.

ASAP is a concept to deploy high-definition digital video surveillance cameras and advanced technology throughout the Compton Station patrol area, including the unincorporated area. ASAP would strengthen the Sheriff's ability to prevent crime, interrupt crimes in progress, address vandalism and quality of life issues, improve criminal investigations, and strengthen evidence for prosecution. The Sheriff is seeking to deploy the proposed ASAP system as a "pilot" project, at no cost to the County, paid through Federal, State, and/or Corporate grants, which will require acceptance by your Board. If there is a donation of equipment valued in excess of \$10,000 associated with the pilot ASAP system, your Board's approval will also be required. In addition, any services agreement related to the installation, maintenance, and repair of equipment for the pilot program that is not within the authority of the Purchasing Agent or the delegated authority to department heads, will require approval by your Board.

The details related to the content and deployment of the ASAP System and its impact on law enforcement operations will require approval by the Sheriff. Any services impacting the unincorporated area, and to the extent the program will affect public works owned by the County requires approval of the Board of Supervisors. Any services impacting the City of Compton, and to the extent the program will affect public

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works owned by the City, requires approval by the City. In addition, the mounting of cameras or any equipment on utility poles will require approval by the specific utility. The Sheriff will keep the Board informed as to the progress of the proposed ASAP system, particularly as it relates to the unincorporated area.

Should you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact me, or your staff may contact Vincent Amerson of this office at (213) 974-1168 or vamerson@cao.lacounty.gov.

DEJ:MKZ
DS:VLA:pg

c: Sheriff
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Director of Internal Services